

**DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED**

**Social Service Human Relations Board**

**Minutes of the Special Meeting, Thursday, December 3, 2009**

1. **CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL**, President Wasco called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.  
Present were Villareal, Nielsen, Soglin, James, Dailey, and Biggs, Staff: Franz

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** Minutes of August 27, 2009 and September 24<sup>Regular</sup> meetings were deferred until after the presentations..

3-A. **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT HEARING ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEEDS: FY 2010 – 2015 FIVE YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN AND FY 2010 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN** – Action – 120 Minutes

- HEALTH IS NOT JUST HEALTHCARE – JEANNE KETTLES and TERRI WRIGHT
- HOMELESS PREVENTION AND RAPID RE-HOUSING PROGRAM (HPRP) and FAIR HOUSING ANALYSIS - TERRI WRIGHT

**Terri Wright** explained that tonight's goals were to review and assess Community Needs for both the annual and 5 year consolidating processes, and to develop a Needs Statement for presentation at the City Council meeting on January 6, 2010. She then introduced Jeanne Kettles to present a summary of the results of the City of Alameda Child and Youth Development Survey 2009.

*(See PDF attachment: "Alameda Health is Not Just Healthcare". This is the Final Survey Report Briefing document, which also contains all of the information presented at the December 3, 2009 SSHRB meeting)*

President Wasco thanked Jeanne, saying that it contained a great amount of valuable information and that the final product will help build a better Alameda.

Jeanne then answered questions from the Board.

**Jeanne Kettles** explained that some of our greatest challenges are related to serving Alameda's diverse community, especially as it applies to language and cultural barriers. In the areas studied, the survey shows the services offered by organizations serving youth, and demonstrates challenges in providing services to the disabled and in the coordination of volunteer services.

The survey might be replicated every couple of years, and in most instances it will be possible to overlay the census data on the findings. Terri added that in this area, the City has committed to working smarter and more efficiently. "We're evolving"

Once completed, the survey results will be made available to service providers including AUSD

President Wasco expressed the Boards appreciation for Jeanne's work on making the survey come together.

*(See attached Power Point for information present by Terri Wright regarding the plans for a new Dental Clinic at the College of Alameda, the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP), the Analysis of Impediments, the Adopted CDBG Priority Needs FY 2005-2009, and the Focus Areas identified by SSHRB)*

**Terri Wright** then outlined the plans for a Dental Clinic at the College of Alameda that began with an October 2007 meeting with the Alameda City Dental Group, that included members of SSHRB, Supervisor Bitker, Dr. Fine, Alameda County Public Health Department.

In response to questions from the Board, Terri explained that the program is aligned with the curriculum of the College of Alameda, offers Internship opportunities, and that the College adopted their Faculty's scheduled to make the Clinic's operating hours work for the community.

Terri reviewed the plans to utilize the \$10 million+ in Federal and State Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing funding to the County of Alameda, \$550,000 of which is for the City of Alameda Alameda County jurisdictions partnered to create program aligned with EveryOne Home Plan, and that "we're inventing as we go along" in an effort to use a collaborative approach to meeting the diverse needs in our County. Half of the funds are being allocated to infrastructure, and half to Direct Services. Terri explained that Alameda's \$550,000 funding is for a three- year period. While the purpose of the funds is to help end homelessness, they cannot be used to help someone "save their home". Some of the funds available are to be distributed through alameda County social services TANF programs.

Terri went on to explain how we are part of a mid-county collaboration to provide services, and that we are partnering with Building Futures with Women and Children, Davis Street Family Resource Center, Abode Services, ECHO Housing, and Eden I&R. Services are being made available in Alameda at the Red Cross Service Center. In addition to Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing services, linkages are being made with organizations providing food, utility assistance, and other services.

Terri then provided an overview of the Analysis of Impediments, the Adopted CDBG Priority Needs FY 2005-2009, and the Focus Areas identified by SSHRB. (See Power Point attachment)

Liz Nickels with Building Futures with Women and Children (BFWC) added that BFWC also plays a role coordinating the casework at the mid-county hub funded by HPRP. One of their staff meets City of Alameda residents seeking assistance at the Alameda Red Cross Service Center. Other available social services funding sources are always used before accessing HPRP funds.

**Public Comment** was provided by representatives from Building Futures with Women and Children (BFWC), ECHO Fair Housing, and Bananas.

#### **Liz Nickels –BFWC**

Ms. Nickels expressed BFWC's gratitude for the continued CDBG support to Midway Shelter and the Board's continued focus on maintaining safety net services. The shelter, which is for Women and Children, has 25 beds and is open 24 hours a day, offering a broad range of services for both adults and children. While BFWC's focus has always been to assist women who have experienced Domestic Violence, space is also made available to all women and their children. The shelter is almost always at capacity, and clients can stay up to 180 days.

In response to questions from the Board, she said that, while they experienced a \$200,000 DV funding

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cut, \$150,000 of that was restored. They did not, however, receive FESG funding this year. They are very concerned about a possible \$300,000 reduction in funding next year, which cause them to close one of their three shelters.

**Terri** added that Midway's 5-year lease is up for renewal with the Navy in one year.

**Laticia Airo – ECHO Fair Housing**

**Ms. Airo** said that one of trends they have noticed recently is the tenant's reluctance to confront a landlord with the need for repairs or issues regarding mold in the apartment. The reluctance is due to a fear of retaliation (eviction) by the landlord. ECH conducts an annual Fair Housing Audit / survey, and Alameda faired well on the recent one.

ECHO recruits, and compensates "testers", many representing groups that may experience housing discrimination. The testers apply for housing to see if one group is treated differently than the other. They currently need more testers.

In response to questions from the Board, she said that while Race is sometimes a factor, this year they are seeing Source of Income (Welfare, Disability) as the major fair housing barrier.

With regards to accepting Sect. 8 tenants, the landlord has the option of saying yes or no.

**Terri** added that, while Sentinel (Alameda's former Fair Housing Provider) identified Race as an issue in Alameda, complaints regarding Race have gone down. The ECHO partnership is a new one.

**Ms. Airo** explained that ECHO also administers CDBG Rental assistance funds, with many of the grants going to Alameda's "working poor".

**Tina Fleeton – Bananas**

**Ms. Fleeton** thanked the Board for their support, and for the continued CDBG funding, which allows them to provide a \$250 a month stipend per child, each month for one year, to assist with childcare costs.

Bananas has provided childcare grants since 1985, and currently assists 1,030 children, 100 of them in Alameda. They manage to transition around 75% of them to long-term programs.

The \$250 stipend supplements the family's resources, and in many instances allows them to remain affordably housed.

In response to questions from the Board, she said without assistance from Bananas / CDBG funds, many families would need to spend 30% to 40% of their income for childcare. Some families have less of a challenge because they live in subsidized housing (Sect. 8, etc), but most do not.

2. (Continued) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – The minutes of the Regular Meeting August 27, 2009 were approved as corrected, M/S James/Soglin Unanimous.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting September 24, 2009 were approved as corrected, M/S Villareal/Dailey.

(Member Nielsen left at 9:05)

3. A (Continued)

The Board then discussed the presentations and public comment, in an effort to determine their recommendations to staff and City Council, regarding the service areas to be focused on and supported with CDBG funding next year.

Comments and suggestions included:

- CW- We're in a spiral, and the local spiral hasn't started yet. All of the needs (Hospital. AUSD, City, Social Services) can't be met. Likely cuts coming in adult Ed/, with no certainty that the College of Alameda will be able to fill the gap. Many immigrants are being asked to pay "out of County" fees. Education has moved to a safety net service.
- JS- We need to deal with needs rather than mechanisms,
- DB- Some Policies are controlled on a National level. We need to identify ways to leverage resources. (example - APC working with AFB) Moving Education to a safety net service would just transfer the burden from one department to another. We should ask the City to consider funding a Grant writer. There is a crisis going on and we have to learn to think out of the box.
- RJ – An emphasis should be placed on entrepreneurship when we write the letter. We should work to identify and leverage private and faith-based resources. It seems that none of the workers on construction projects at the college of Alameda are from the City of Alameda.
- AD – The letter to the council should express urgency. Times are bad and getting worse.
- TW – Our community is gentrifying and much of the data we have is still based on the 2000 Census. We fared well. Partly because Alameda has a great deal of old housing stock. We may take a significant funding hit after the 2010 Census information is released. The paradigm may move from old housing stock to a low-income formula.

After discussion, the Board agreed to reaffirm the focus on needs expressed in their 2008 letter to the council, with the addition of: Encouraging Entrepreneurship, stressing the urgency regarding today's need for services, and encouraging the leveraging of resources within our non-profit community.

M/S James/Dailey Unanimous (Member Nielsen absent for vote)

Members Wasko, Dailey, and Biggs will write the letter, and members James and Biggs will present it to council.

6. **ADJOURNMENT** - M/S (Wasko/Dailey) to adjourn at 10:10

Respectfully submitted,

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Jim Franz

Community Development Coordinator